

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASMARA 01092 280722Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
 INR-07 NSAE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-01 AID-05 /066 W
 -----280728Z 007126 /21

R 280640Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL ASMARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4296
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN
COMIDEASTFOR
NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA
NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI
CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 1092

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS ET
SUBJECT: MASSAWA CONVOYS RESUME AND ASSASSINATIONS CONTINUE

1. THE EMPTY FUEL TRUCKS WHICH WAITED FIVE DAYS IN ASMARA FOR AN ESCORT, WERE CONVOYED TO MASSAWA ON DEC. 22 AND RETURNED WITHOUT INCIDENT ON DEC. 24. THE 60 TRUCKS WERE REPORTED TO BE CARRYING ALL TYPES OF POL PRODUCTS REQUIRED IN ASMARA, BUT DISTRIBUTION OF KEROSENE AND MOGAS REMAINS STRICTLY CONTROLLED. MOST OF THE MOGAS WAS TURNED OVER TO THE ETHIOPIAN MILITARY WHICH IS USING THE STORAGE CAPACITY OF COMMERCIAL STATIONS TO STORE THEIR FUEL. KAGNEW HAS RECEIVED A TRUCKLOAD OF FUEL ENABLING IT TO EASE THEIR RATIONING FOR THEIR AMERICAN EMPLOYEES' VEHICLES.

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PAGE 02 ASMARA 01092 280722Z

2. IN ASMARA THE INSURGENTS CONTINUE TO PURSUE THEIR LOW-LEVEL ASSASSINATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST "INFORMERS" AND SECURITY OFFICIALS. ON THE WEEKEND OF DEC. 18-19, INSURGENT GUNMEN SHOT TO DEATH AN ERITREAN POLICE SERGEANT WHO REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN WARNED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT HE WAS COOPERATING TOO CLOSELY WITH THE ETHIOPIAN AUTHORITIES. ON DEC. 24, A TIGRAN WAS KILLED

IN FRONT OF HIS HOME BY INSURGENTS. HE WAS WIDELY BELIEVED TO BEN AN INFORMER FOR THE EPMG. DESPITE HIS DENIALS HE WAS KNOWN TO CARRY A PISTOL WHENEVER HE LEFT HIS HOME.

3. THESE TWO KILLINGS DEMONSTRATE THE PLIGHT OF ERITREANS AND TIGRANS WHO WORK FOR THE EPMG SECURITY FORCES IN ASMARA AT THIS CRITICAL JUNCTURE. ALTHOUGH OFTEN REGARDED OF SUSPECT LOYALTY BY THEIR ETHIOPIAN EMPLOYERS, THEY ARE SUBJECT TO ASSASSINATION BY THE INSURGENTS IF THEY ARE CONSIDERED BY THEM TO BE EFFECTIVE IN THEIR JOBS. THE INSURGENTS ARE NOT DETERRED IN THEIR EFFORTS AGAINST THESE PEOPLE, AS THEY KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT THE ETHIOPIAN MILITARY WILL NOT COMMIT REPRISALS AGAINST THE CIVIL POPULACE ON BEHALF OF THESE "NORTHERNERS".
WAUCHOPE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, PROVINCE, SUPPLIES, TERRORISTS
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Authority: ElyME
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